THE

Life, Birth and Education of the Reverend Mr. *Benjamin Hoadly*, Rector of St. *Peters-Poor*, in *Broadſtreet*, who wrote ag inſt Dr. *Sacheverell*'s Sermon and High-church; Together with his Writing, Preaching, and Character.

Written by a Student of the Univerſity of Cambridge.

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THE
Life, Birth and Education of the Reverend
Mr. *Benjamin Hoadly*, &c.

WHEN I first had Thoughts of Employing my Time in this Work, I design'd it much Larger; and indeed, in a very different Style from what it is done; for as I professs my self what the World calls a *High-Churchman*, I cou'd not but think this Gentleman wonderfully to Blame for deserting the true Doctrine thereof, and turning a *False Brother* to his *Mother Church*: What Man else wou'd have Wrote in Favour of the *Whigs* and *Dissenters*, to justifie the destructive Doctrine of deposing Kings at the Peoples Pleasure, to make the Prince Subservient to their Wills; or else immediatly to Dethrone or Murther him; which 'tis known they have once done, and wou'd not fail to do again were it in their Power. Nay, who so wickedly now dare deny and insult Her Majestys Sacred and Heritary Right! But with Them, nothing is sacred; so, not even the Divine Prerogative they hold from Heaven. Texts of Scripture are not able to bind them: *Obey the King, and touch not mine Anointed*, are to be Blotted out of *Holy Writ*, when the utmost we can do, or the utmost we can suffer; is all little enough to justifie our Works to God, in alegiance to our Soveraign: Should he tread on our Necks, are we not Patiently to suffer it; yes surely, unless we will imediatly run into that Damning and horrid Sin of Rebellion, accurs'd by God in a very Infancy of the World, by the Rebellion of that Grand Rebel and Impostor Lucifer. And if he who was only a fallen Angel, and God wou'd

not Pardon the Sin in him; but puniſh'd him with the Loſs of Paradiſe, what may the Rebellious hardon'd and impenitent *Whigg* expect, who are not only ready to juſtifie thoſe wicked and pernicious Principles, but are every Day ſtudying how they may cultivate the ſame, and put their Doctrine in Practice; but I ſhall run into a Digreſſion that may ſeem unpardonable; yet it has this Coherence with the Subject in Hand, that I will ſhew the Reader, whatever my Principles are in matters of Government, I can lay aſide all Animoſity, and out of reſpect to the Sanctity of his Character, as a Miniſter of God, and the Church of *England*, Treat impartialy in what Accounts I have been able to obtain of his Life.

This Mr. *Benjamin Hoadly*, become now famous by his VVriting and Preaching, was Born in the City of *Norwich*, about the Year 1671. His Father was a Man of ſome Eſtate, and took ſuch care of his Sons Education, that nothing was wanting to make him a Scholar, he having even whilſt a Boy, a quick and ſprightly Genius, and took much Delight in his Book, from which early Promiſes of Learning his Parents had no little Hopes, reſolving to Educate him ſo as to make him fit for the Pulpit; and in this they had Encouragement from the Friendſhip of the late Famous Dr. *Sherlock*, Dean of St. *Pauls*, and Miniſter of the *Temple*, that he wou'd provide for him ſome where as ſoon as he was fit to be prefer'd.

I might here omit, as being ſcarce pertinent to this Subject, that his Father in ſome little time after remov'd to *Hackney*, where he kept a very great and gentile Boarding-School for the Education of young Gentlemen and others, and here, no doubt, but his Son's Education was not the leaſt minded, who as I have ſaid before, above all things gave his Mind to Learning.

So that now, being a very good School-Scholler, his

his Father, under the Tuition of a very good Friend of his, ſent him to the Univerſity of *Cambridge*, where he daily profited in his Studies, and became of much Note among the young Students, and ſhew'd extraordinary Signs of proving an Excellent Divine; which Study he enter'd into at 20 years of Age.

I wou'd juſt mention the natural Infirmity he has in his Limbs, which was from his Childhood, ſo that he is fain to be aſſiſted, when he walks, with two Sticks to lean on; but not Crutches, as I have ſeen repreſented in ſome Pictures, or if it had been ſo, I cannot but think thoſe Reflections upon Natural Imperfections, to be very abſurd and diſpleaſing; But the Cauſe that makes me ſpeak it, is, that by ſuch an Infirmity, being incapable to purſue thoſe Diverſions which moſt young Students do whilſt they are at the Univerſity, he had the greater leiſure to follow his Studies, to which he conſtantly apply'd himſelf with the greateſt Diligence.

Having now to a wonderful Degree, for one of his Years, qualified himſelf for the Pulpit, upon the Recommendation of Dr. *Sherlock*, he was about Ten Years ago prefer'd to be Lecturer of St. *Mildred*, *Poultry*, where he Preach'd with good Reputation for about five Years in that Station, 'till his Parts having recommended him to a Noble Lord, he was made alſo Rector of St. *Peter-Poor*, in *Broad-ſtreet*, which he has enjoy'd for about five Years.

However, he comes now to be tax'd with Republican Principles; there are ſome Books extant, which he has wrote with great Judgment and Warmth againſt the Diſſenters, and given almoſt unanſwerable Reaſons why they ought to reconcile themſelves to the Church. When I really underſtood this, and ſaw thoſe Books he had Written, I could not but wonder that he ſhould be arraigned of Principles, that in his Writings he ſeems ſo much to abhor.

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It is certain that he wrote with great Judgment and Modesty against the Bishop of *Exeter*, in which I will not pretend to approve or disprove the Subject, any more than a Fault he is highly tax'd with, of answering a Sermon Printed by Her Majesty's Special Command; but it must be allow'd that he has wrote with great Skill and Force of Argument. His Measures of Submission is an Elegant Piece, and so is his last Book of Government; but as to the Subject of 'em, as I have said, I don't pretend to determine.

Some time after Dr. *Sacheverel*'s Sermon had been Preach'd at St. *Pauls*, he took occasion to write and Preach against the same; so that on the 14th of *December* 1709, when the Doctor was brought to the Bar of the House of Commons, and had been order'd to be continu'd in Custody, Mr. *Hoadly*'s Name was brought up, one Mr. *Henly* began the Motion, and was seconded by Sir *Joseph Jekell*, the former pulling Mr. *Hoadley*s Book out of his Pocket, said that he had read it over, that he had therein learnedly defended the late happy Revolution, and vindicated Her Majesty's Lawful Title to the Crown, and that if such Men were prefer'd, it wou'd silence and put to shame all the the Enemies of the present Establishment, and encourage others boldly to oppose their pernicious Doctrines. The House was in great Confusion, it being late, and every one expected immediately to rise; however there were several warm Debates follow'd. Those who were against these Resolutions, infer'd, that it deserv'd the greatest Consideration, in regard to Her Majesty, who had approv'd a Sermon Preach'd before her by the Bishop of *Exeter*, and desir'd him to print it Against that Sermon Mr. *Hoadly* had wrote, and engag'd in Controversy with the Bishop, in which he had avow'd very Loose and Republican Principles, inconsistent with the Security of Government.

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On the other ſide it was argu'd, that by oppoſing the Biſhop he did not Quarrel with the Sermon preach'd before Her Majeſty, for it might be good and deſerve the Queens Notice, but the Sincerity of his Lordſhip, who had not long before Preach'd what ſeem'd to bear a quite different Principle, and for being deſir'd to Print it, it was generally a Cuſtom, Mr. *Hoadley* did not therein any way cenſure or apprehend Her Majeſty's Judgment, and therefore, if his Zeal and Service for the Goverment, had merited Preferment, that cou'd be no Impediment in the way to his Advancement; ſo that after a long Debate the two Reſolutions paſs'd the Houſe.

Firſt, *Reſolv'd*, That the Reverend Mr. *Benjamin Hoadley*, Rector of St. *Peters-Poor*, *London*, for having often ſtrenuouſly juſtify'd the Principles, on which Her Majeſty and the Nation proceeded in the late happy Revolution, hath juſtly merited the Favour and Recommendation this Houſe.

Reſolv'd,

That humble Addreſs be preſented to Her Majeſty, That ſhe will be graciouſly pleas'd to beſtow ſome Dignity in the Church on the ſaid Mr. *Hoadly*, for hi. Eminent Services both to Church and State.

Order'd,

That the ſaid Addreſs be preſented to Her Majeſty by ſuch Members of this Houſe as are of Her Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy-Council.

To which Her Majeſty was pleas'd to Anſwer, *That ſhe wou'd conſider of a proper Opportunity to comply with their Requeſt.*

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In the mean time several Libels and Pamphlets were thrown out against him, and he was generally cenſur'd by the People as a Friend to the Diſſenters, and an Enemy to Epiſcopacy and the Eſtabliſh'd Church; but in all the Enquiries I have been able to make, I cannot find by any that know him, that he really deſerves ſuch a Character; nay, ſome, who I know are not his Friends, and avow'd Enemies to his Principles, do however ſay, that take him as to his Capacities, and it is not to be deny'd but that he is undoubtedly a Man of great Learning and Merit, and one that writes with good Judgment, and ſound Argument.

If this be granted, it will excuſe me that I have not, (tho' an utter Enemy to his Low-Church Principles) given him an unjuſt Character; yet I cou'd wiſh that the Man, who has much the Reputation of a good Liver, a good Preacher, a Modeſt and Judicious Miniſter, wou'd forſake thoſe heinous Principles of *Moderation*, and Preach up the Bleſſed Doctrine of *Non-Riſiſtance* and *Paſſive Obedience*, and thunder out *Eccleſiaſtical Anathema's* againſt all thoſe who dare preſume to Undermine and Overthrow the Eſtabliſhed Church, if they are to be found.

FINIS.

Enter'd according to Order.

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